

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00151 071307Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07  
NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03  
H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07  
NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 DOTE-00  
EPA-01 FEAE-00 /110 W

-----071313Z 103137 /53

R 071212Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4352  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECIN, ETAD, PINT, IS, EC

SUBJECT: SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED FOR COOPERATION  
WITH EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

1. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL  
TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE FROM ISRAEL'S  
AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WAS ANNOUNCED JANUARY  
3. THE COUNCIL WILL BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
THE GOI, HISTADRUT AND EMPLOYER AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.  
IT WILL CONSULT WITH THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE ON QUESTIONS OF COMMON INTEREST AND ESTABLISH  
LIAISON WITH ITS SEVERAL COUNTERPART SOCIO-ECONOMIC COM-  
MITTEES IN THE NINE EC MEMBER STATES.

2. THE INITIATIVE FOR ESTABLISHING THE COUNCIL  
CAME FROM THE HISTADRUT, WHOSE SECRETARY GENERAL  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 00151 071307Z

Y. MESHEL WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN FOR A ONE YEAR TERM.  
THE 15 MEMBER BODY CONSISTS OF SIX HISTADRUT REP-  
RESENTATIVES, SIX REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COORDINATING  
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATIONS), AND ONE EACH FROM THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,  
THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND FROM THE UNIVERSITIES.  
IN ADDITION, A FIVE MAN STEERING COMMITTEE WAS CREATED

TO ASSURE THE CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNCIL AND TO MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND ITS NINE NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS. A DELEGATION FROM THE EC COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INVITED TO COME TO ISRAEL IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.

3. THE COUNCIL PLANS TO DEAL WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, FOREIGN AND INTERNAL TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, TAXATION, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND FOREIGN AID.

4. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEW COUNCIL WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PUBLIC CONCERN THAT ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE TARIFF AND OTHER PROTECTIVE TRADE BARRIERS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS UNDER ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE EC MAY PRODUCE ADVERSE ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS NOT SUFFICIENTLY COMPENSATED FOR BY INITIAL TRADE ADVANTAGES. IT WAS FELT THAT FROM TIME TO TIME A NEED MAY ARISE TO REVIEW THE RATE AND TIMING OF TRADE ADJUSTMENTS IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON EMPLOYMENT AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE.

5. ACCORDING TO HISTADRUT SOURCES, ISRAEL HOPES TO USE THIS NEW FORUM NOT ONLY TO DEFEND ITS SPECIAL INTERESTS ARISING FROM ITS TRADE WITH THE COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO TO REINFORCE ITS TIES AND CONTACTS WITH EUROPEAN LABOR, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 00151 071307Z

AND EVENTUALLY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EC AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE PROMINENT ROLE PLAYED BY KEY EUROPEAN TRADE UNION AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERS IN THE EC ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THIS NEW CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENT ESPECIALLY INTERESTING TO THE HISTADRUT WITH ITS HIGHLY ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT AND ITS BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

6. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM SEVERAL EC EMBASSY COLLEAGUES THAT THE SIGNATURE OF THE FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO THE EC/ISRAEL AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE FEBRUARY 8, ALTHOUGH AN ISRALI RADIO REPORT SAID IT WOULD BE AT THE END OF JANUARY.  
DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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